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## Introduction

The increased incidence of both mucosal and invasive fungal infections during the past two decades, and the emergence of previously uncommon opportunistic pathogens, necessitates an ongoing education process with respect to the microbiology, epidemiology and pathogenesis of these organisms in order to take full advantage of the options for prevention and treatment of systemic fungal infections. Attention to global trends and continued surveillance remains necessary in order to monitor pathogen frequency and changes in the activity of antifungal agents. The prognosis for the patient population depends on

early recognition of the entities involved, prompt initiation of appropriate therapy and adjunct surgical management when necessary. Early detection and the possibility of prophylaxis will clearly remain at the forefront of future investigation and study. The crucial balance between diagnosis and treatment is best maintained when optimal therapy is made available to those patients who need it, and when those who do not are clearly identified rather than exposed to antifungal agents unnecessarily.

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